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Thursday and Friday

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Don't miss the
STUDIO XFINITY
Taylor Swift event!
(See Back Cover)

**NATIONAL FRIED CHICKEN DAY**

Table Fifty-Two
52 W. Elm St. 312-573-4000
The "holiday" was July 6, but the River North restaurant is celebrating through Friday with a three-course menu including cucumber-tomato salad, buttermilk fried chicken and pecan pie. 5-9:30 p.m. \$38.

SANDWICH GIVEAWAY

Gleacher Center
450 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive
312-675-8391

Stop by the Windy City Patty Wagon food truck to get a free **chili relleno gordita** made with a meatless Boca Essentials chili relleno patty, black beans, mango pico de gallo and gordita cakes. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free while supplies last.

**DO****SUMMERDANCE IN THE PARKS**

Humboldt Park Boat House
1301 N. Sacramento Ave. 312-742-7549

Take an hour-long dance lesson then practice your moves while Plena Libre and AfriCaribe perform as part of this annual series, which runs through Sept. 3. 6-9 p.m.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Free tickets for the Chicago Dancing Festival's Aug. 25 and 27 indoor shows are available at noon Thursday at harristheaterchicago.org.

DRINK**3-DAY FORECAST**

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71° 62°
Rain, rain



FRIDAY

77° 64°
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SATURDAY

83° 67°
Go away

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Joe's Bar 940 W. Weed St. 312-337-3486
Sip \$5 margaritas while watching sets from Sara Contreras of Showtime's "The Latin Divas of Comedy" and local comedians Mona, Marci Delaney and Gwen La Roka. \$20-\$25. 7:30 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets: milkeyocomedy.com

STONE RUINATION NATION KICK-OFF PARTY

The Bar on Buena
910 W. Buena Ave. 773-525-8665
The Buena Park bar celebrates the California brewery's new Ruination 2.0 by pouring multiple versions of the double IPA, including double dry-hopped Ruination and RuinTen triple IPA. 7 p.m. No cover.

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Spike Lee (second from right) poses for photos Tuesday with a group of Englewood residents while his movie 'Chi-raq' films in the area.

ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE

'Chi-raq' is not the movie you think it is

Set visit reveals new details on Spike Lee film

By Nina Metz | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A visit to the set of Spike Lee's "Chi-raq" this week revealed that much speculation about the movie—sparked largely by the title itself—has been off the mark.

Until the Tribune's behind-the-scenes look at the film, which has been shrouded in mystery since news of the project first leaked in the spring, it was unclear how the movie would approach the subject of violence in Chicago, particularly black-on-black violence in the city's Englewood neighborhood.

Before a single frame was shot, the title became instantly polarizing—the term has been around for a few years now, equating gun violence in the city with that of the war zone in Iraq—and curiosity has been intense.

Filming wraps Thursday, and throughout the five-week shoot Lee has remained silent.

The assumption all along has been that the movie would be a grim indictment, or worse, a glorification, of gang violence, but screenwriter Kevin Willmott likens their approach to "Dr.

"Strangelove," Stanley Kubrick's 1964 political satire about nuclear war in the Cold War era.

"It doesn't get much more serious than atomic warfare," he said, "but you're able to see the serious side of the point and also laugh at the absurdity of the problem. And I think that's the element we're interested in—laughing at the absurdity of the problem to some degree. Spike's made a lot of movies that straddle that line, and he's very good at that."

The title has not yet been finalized, but it will include the slang "Chi-raq." Yes, with a hyphen. And roughly 80 percent has been filmed in and around Englewood.

The cast features Angela Bassett, Nick Cannon, D.B. Sweeney, Wesley Snipes and a number of Chicago-area natives: Jennifer Hudson, John Cusack, Steve Harris ("The Practice") and Harry Lennix ("The Blacklist").

(Contrary to what has been rumored, Common and Jeremy Piven are not in the film.)

Teyonah Parris is the star, and her credits include "Dear White People" and the Starz series "Survivor's Remorse." Her most high-profile role to date has been on "Mad Men" as Don Draper's quietly no-nonsense secretary, Dawn.

In "Chi-raq" she plays a woman so fed up with gun violence that she launches a sex strike.

It's a satire based on the classic Aristophanes play "Lysistrata" from 411 B.C.—in which the women of ancient Greece withhold sex until their men put an end to the Peloponnesian War.

"It's a great premise, you know? Women going on a sex strike," Lee said.

On Twitter, people have posted photos taken outside the General Jones Armory on Cottage Grove Avenue, where a large rally was filmed and two big pink banners were hung on the outside of the building that read: "No peace, no p---" —no sex, in other words—signaling a certain level of knowingly outrageous comedy at play.

Asked about finding the right tone and level of dark comedy in the story's satiric roots, Lee cited one of his earlier and best-known films:

"'Do the Right Thing' is funny as a mother[bleep]er. And it's still a serious film. I did that 26 years ago. I've been doing that. I have no problems doing a film with several different tones. So it's not a problem. I'm not saying it's easy to do, because you go from one spectrum to another."

It's the film's title that has thrown people for a loop. The original script, which Willmott wrote 13 years ago, wasn't set in Chicago. When he and Lee came together last year to work on developing it some more, it was Lee who proposed a new setting.

For Lee, "The title to me is not the issue. People are going to think what they want to think, and that's it," he said, adding that "no Brooklynites had a problem with the title 'Crooklyn,'" referring to his 1994 semiautobiographical film, a nostalgia piece about growing up in 1970s Brooklyn.

When asked why he's kept details about the film so close to the vest, he said, "People gonna find out, so you don't have to announce it. I mean, there's no way we're gonna be able to sneak into Chicago and do a film this big and people not know about it."

"Chicago's a great city. I've got nothing bad to say about Chicago. My late brother [Christopher] was born in Chicago, so I actually lived here for two years. I was 1 or 2 years old. I don't even remember what neighborhood we lived in. Had to be the South Side, though. Had to be."



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Forget #tbt: Relive the past on alumni weekend



Mike Maxwell

» redeye@redeyechicago.com
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for what we really want.

Fortunately, every year I am offered a ride in the cheap-beer time machine that is college alumni weekend.

It's a roughly 3½-hour drive from Chicago, or ½ live O.A.R. albums, to get to Ripon College (pronounced Rip 'in). And when I pulled onto campus for alumni weekend last month, it all came back—while those remaining life goals I had slid further away. It was as though I was coming down with Hitchcockian vertigo.

Just a couple of years ago I was lucky to see a good handful of my friends at my 10-year reunion. Yeah, I've been out of college for more than a decade. That's as sobering and depressing as an unsteamed mirror at my neighborhood YMCA. So, I and a collection of 30-ish-year-olds stand stoically under a giant tent, grimacing as though life just gave us bourbon for the first time.

Apparently, if you're going to head back for alumni weekend it's highly encouraged to return either bald or with one's Freshman Fifteen. The 48 hours of nostalgia and perspective are so potent that I need not concern myself

with what is going on outside my bubble, back home, in present-day Mikeland. The irony for me is that the drive up and out of the grind allows me to catch up with college friends who live just two neighborhoods over in Chicago.

There were plenty of events during the weekend that centered on drinking beer on the lawn while some undergrads in the crowd lament the foreshadowing of things to come. Being an old alum is a relatively new thing to me as I now gather I'm expected to have accomplished something. I'm still young-looking enough for undergrads to say more than hello but still too old-looking to warrant genuine interest in telling me where the good party is later. Xanadu.

The inevitable bar crawl through a fistful of pubs and townie dives made us feel like we

made all the right moves in the past decade. Amazing how snagging a beer at a third of the Cook County rate can make us feel. Without fail, we drop a playlist of music that makes Carson Daly relevant again, and the countdown until someone buys a round of cliché Jäger or Fireball shots begins.

Waking up on three hours of sleep is something that I championed back with the same loyal idiots years before I had things to do. The reprieve of the hangover came when I woke to see how terribly out of it we all are now. It's clearly evident that next to Father Time, alcohol and our respective metabolism remind us who's really running the show moving forward.

More than a decade later, these friends and I once again successfully navigated a weekend on campus that went from debauchery to shenanigans to dehydrated reminiscing without missing a beat or each other.

MIKE MAXWELL IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.



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 & Co. & separates in The Mixing Room. Misses
 & petites. ★ 2121361. Women's prices slightly higher.

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Nik Wallenda walks a tightrope in November from Marina City (right) to the Leo Burnett Building.
BRIAN CASSELLA/Tribune

Landmark status for Marina City?

Marina City, the iconic Chicago riverfront complex famed for its corncob-shaped towers, could soon be on the way to becoming an official city landmark. Designed by architect Bertrand Goldberg and built in the 1960s, the modernist complex at 300 N. State St. will be recommended Thursday for preliminary landmark status at a meeting of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks. A 54-page report by the commission's staff calls Marina City "the most ambitious and forward-thinking post-war urban renewal project in Chicago in an era defined by ambitious urban renewal projects." TRIBUNE

They deliver

Taco Bell is starting delivery service on Wednesday in certain markets in a partnership with the startup delivery company DoorDash. Delivery will be available initially in more than 90 cities and more than 200 restaurants around Los Angeles, San Francisco and Dallas. Pricing and delivery costs may vary, depending on the location of the restaurant. AP



THE DIGIT

795

That's how many flights United Airlines had delayed as of noon Wednesday, according to [flightstats.com](#), after a router problem prompted the airline to ground flights worldwide for nearly two hours. The airline said it had waivers available at [united.com](#) so affected customers could change their flight plans without being charged a flight-change fee. TRIBUNE



Kickstarter king

As of noon Wednesday, Chicago-based Gramovox had raised \$1,041,107 for its Floating Record with 19 days to go on its Kickstarter campaign. That tops the \$1,026,292 raised in 2013 by Central Standard Timing for its ill-fated "world's thinnest watch"—the old record for a Chicago-based Kickstarter campaign. A pledge of \$349 will earn Kickstarter backers one of the turntables. Once the campaign is over, Bapu said, it will retail for \$449 in stores. Instead of lying flat, the product's turntable and tone arm rise vertically from the base—producing the image of a floating record. BLUE SKY



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sports

3 storylines for crosstown clash



Matt Lindner

* redeyesports@tribune.com
* [@mattlindner](https://twitter.com/mattlindner)

Relevance and irrelevance converge starting Friday when the Cubs take on the White Sox.

And for the first time in entirely too long, this matchup is shaping up to be really fun.

Kris Bryant vs. Carlos Rodon, Jason Motte's beard vs. Adam LaRoche's equally impressive face ruxedo, Perpetual-threat-to-

throw-a-no-hitter Jake Arrieta vs. the light-hitting Sox. The Cubs in playoff contention.

Of course, those are just some of the best storylines. These are your showstoppers.

Jeff Samardzija will send Jed Hoyer a fruit basket with a note saying, 'Call me'

Woe is Jeff Samardzija, whose Cubs career had to die in part so this funhouse of a young, exciting roster could live. Samardzija finds himself back in the Friendly Confines in a familiar position, toiling away for a morose team without a prayer of making the postseason this year.

That said, Samardzija is in the last year of his contract, the Sox aren't going anywhere and the Cubs could use another quality arm in the rotation. You'd be hard pressed to blame Samardzija for baring his eyes at Cubs GM Jed Hoyer.

An outfielder will get Hot Doug's

With temperatures set to be in the low 80s throughout the weekend, an outfielder can build up a mighty hunger chasing down fly balls. That, combined with the fact the actual sausage king of Chicago (sorry, Abe Froman) Doug Sohn started selling his tubed meats in the bleachers this month, means conditions are right for an outfielder to consume a gourmet hot dog in the outfield at Wrigley for the first time.

The smart money's on Dexter Fowler. But don't sleep on Jorge Soler.

2 aces will shine on center stage

In the history of this series, there has never been a more exciting pitching matchup than the one Saturday, with Chris "Cy Young" Sale taking on Jon Lester in a Saturday matinee.

Sale comes into this one fresh off a record-tying streak of games with 10 or more strikeouts while Lester enters with something to prove after a first half that hasn't lived up to expectations (4-7, 3.48 ERA). Of course, watch this one finish with a final score of 14-13.

MATT LINDNER IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

Cubs announcers Len Kasper (left) and Jim Deshaies record their pregame show for WGN at Wrigley Field. TRIBUNE



Baseball rocks

When Len Kasper isn't calling Cubs games, he's all about music

By Paul M. Banks | FOR REDEYE

Cubs TV announcer Len Kasper is an unabashed music aficionado. You can hear him wax poetic about different types of music during broadcasts. He also appears Mondays and Fridays with Lin Brehmer on alternative rock station WXRT 93.1-FM.

On Thursday at Metro in Wrigleyville, Kasper will play bass guitar as part of an all-star music lineup headlined by Pearl Jam frontman and Cubs superfan Eddie Vedder. It's the fourth annual Hot Stove Cool Music benefit concert, and Vedder and Kasper will be joined by Cubs president Theo Epstein and band members from Wilen, Cheap Trick, Smashing Pumpkins and Umphrey's McGee.

RedEye spoke to Kasper about the show, his taste in music and his secret plans for Cubs manager Joe Maddon.

WANT TO GO?

Tickets for the Hot Stove Cool Music benefit are \$75 and can be purchased at metrochicago.com or at the Metro Box Office, 3730 N. Clark St. Proceeds benefit Cubs Charities and Cubs president Theo Epstein's Foundation To Be Named Later.



What does the concertgoer at Hot Stove Cool Music get to experience?

You never know what you're going to see. You'll see musicians from famous bands play with other musicians and play each other's songs. A lot of musicians ask about it, but we don't pay them. They're donating their time.

You're kind of an indie rock guy, right?

If I had to pick, I would probably say power pop is where I would start. Matthew Sweet, indie rock, but I like a little bit of everything. Depends on my mood.

Ever had a starstruck moment?

Many. Peter Frampton did the [seventh-inning] stretch [at Wrigley] one year. [He] couldn't have been nicer. Big fan of his.

Eddie Vedder, who's probably our favorite guest doing the stretch, he

loves the Cubs, he gets it. He's a big sweetheart, not a "rock star." He's just a really nice guy, and that's disarming when you meet somebody of that stature and they're just really down to Earth.

What's your take on how the vibe at the ballpark has changed this season?

It's been a different ballgame. I think fans come to the ballpark every day expecting this team to win or be in it until the final pitch. I think very early this season the atmosphere had changed quite a bit. We've had a couple of days here that have really felt like the playoffs, certainly when Kansas City came in. We've had some walk-off wins; it's been noticeable.

Certainly #KrisMas was an example?

[Laughs.] Yes, right, the Kris Bryant day when Addison Russell made his home de-

WHITE SOX AT CUBS

3:05 p.m. Friday, WGN (Sox) and CSN (Cubs)
3:05 p.m. Saturday, CSN (Sox) and ABC-7 (Cubs)
1:20 p.m. Sunday, CSN (Sox) and ABC-7 (Cubs)

but, Jon Lester, the ESPN Sunday night game was a big one. So we've had some days to mark on the calendar.

Do the players ever come to the event?

We've had them come in the past. They're all invited; I imagine a few of them will come. We've got to get the skipper to come. I think Joe [Maddon] is intrigued. I might try to get him up on stage as well. I've got a musical plan for him that he doesn't know about yet. I got to pick the right time to spring it on him, but I think he'll buy in.

PAUL M. BANKS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
@PAULMBANKS

This weekend's Cubs-Sox theme: Fire, hands down



As the much-anticipated crosstown series kicks off this weekend, the competitive fire of those who wear black and white or bleed Cubbie blue burns brightly.

Although this year is the 10th anniversary of the White Sox winning the World Series, I'm not hiding behind a championship ring. Well on their way to losing season, "fire" is the operative word for these three Sox predictions.

Fire up the grill

No, I'm not talking about the grills at the Hot Doug's sausage stand at Wrigley. They call it the hot seat, and the one belonging to Sox management is sizzling more than a July Fourth barbecue. The Sox losing the crosstown series to the Cubbies could be heartburn enough for ownership that the next time Hawk Harrelson says "he gone," he will be referring to the jobs Robin Ventura, Rick Hahn or even Ken Williams.

In the spirit of Hot Doug-style sausage names, what would you call a \$15 million team that falls significantly short of expectations and leaves a bad taste in your mouth? More wiener than winner, that's for sure.

Fire up the scoreboard

On the other hand, this series could be the spark the players need. For that to happen, the Sox will have to fire up the scoreboard.

Seriously, I've seen more fireworks in my neighborhood than during games at the Cell this season. Yet despite the fact the Sox offense ranks last in the American League in runs scored and home runs, they are within striking distance of a wild card slot. A sweep at Wrigley could start the Sox's ride on the road to redemption.

Fire Sale

I know people think I'm more cuckoo than the Cocoa Puffs bird, but rest assured I'm not saying the Sox should "fire" ace Chris Sale. However, would you have me committed to Arkham Asylum if I suggested trading him?

This series could be the ultimate audition for something the Cubs need and the Sox have: pitching. While I'm not suggesting the Sox give away the face of the franchise to the North Side, a crosstown clobbering at the Cubs' hands easily could lead to a South Side fire sale. Everyone can go (besides Sale and Jose Abreu). At the right price, could you ignore a Sale sale?

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BYE, LISA

RedEye bids the fondest of farewells to Eat and Drink editor Lisa Arnett. Whiskey for everyone!



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1 What's the best sport to pair with whiskey?

Does watching "So You Think You Can Dance" count as a sport?

Does shoe shopping count?

Whiskey helps me forget, so right now I'd say White Sox baseball.

Drinking. Whiskey is a beverage that requires skill (a sophisticated palate) and physical exertion (lifting the glass) to drink.

Whiskey is like the color black. It goes with everything.

2 Bowling is to Chicago as ...

... I am to consistent bowling. Turkeys one day, gutter balls the next. Sorry, team!

... purse wine is to life. Often underestimated, but NEVER, EVER lets you down.

... manicures are to Lisa. Not just a hobby, but a way of life.

... the lemon ball is to Lisa Arnett. It's always there and comes through occasionally.

... Lisa's shoe collection is to her wardrobe. Can't live without it.

3 Help Lisa get other fans to University of Illinois football games.

The Illiniettes have super-snazzy dance routines.

I'm sorry, Lisa, but that's against my religion.

Free drink tickets at Kam's should do the trick. They'll stumble their way there eventually.

Rosé right this way.

She'll personally bring you a flask of grandpa's sauce to keep warm during those colder games.

4 No rooftop sports bar is complete without ...

... pitchers of beer, icy cold mugs and a big umbrella so I don't get sunburned.

... bubbly, burrata and bacon. That goes for life in general, too.

... a LaCroix cocktail menu, duh.

... a decent beer list with a side of bacon.

... Lisa sporting her ballerina moves during commercial breaks.

5 If Lisa had a menu item at U.S. Cellular Field named after her, what would it be?

A hot dog with ketchup only named The Traitor Dog? It's true, friends. Mustard and I don't mix.

Arnett You Glad We Added Bacon? Five cheeses sandwiched between two giant slabs of bacon.

The Arnett Baguette and Cheese Platter.

The PuhLisa Pass Le Hot Dog, Sans mustard. Lisa ain't about that life.

A special rosé wine called Rosé the Riveter displayed with a photo of Lisa doing the famous lady-flecked-arm pose.



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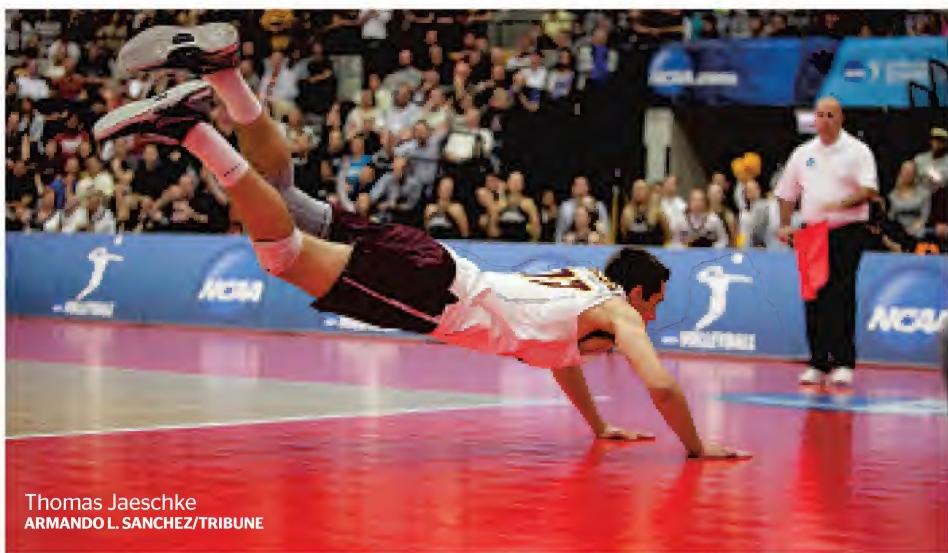
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Thomas Jaeschke
ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/TRIBUNE

Et tu, Thomas?

It's not just football and basketball players who leave school early to go pro. Loyola volleyball player Thomas Jaeschke has left the two-time defending national champion Ramblers to join one of the top teams in Europe. Jaeschke, reigning national player of the year, is skipping his senior year to play with Asseco Resovia of Rzeszow, Poland.

Judge cancels Redskins trademark

A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the cancellation of the Washington Redskins' trademark registration, ruling that the team name may be disparaging to Native Americans. The ruling affirms an earlier finding by an administrative appeal board. Bruce ordered the federal Patent and Trademark Office to cancel the registration.



JOHN J. KIM/TRIBUNE

Repeat: Handle with care

Apparently N.Y. Giants lineman Jason Pierre-Paul is not the only one having trouble with fireworks. Former Bears and current Tampa Bay cornerback C.J. Wilson injured his hand while setting off fireworks this past weekend. And according to the Lincoln Times-News, Wilson lost two fingers as a result.

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Trinidad and Tobago vs. Guatemala (6 p.m.), Mexico vs. Cuba (8:30 p.m.)

Yes, the U.S. is the favorite in this tournament and is off to a strong start. But watching soccer with true futbol fanatics is an experience not to be missed. Mexico is probably the Americans' biggest obstacle, and followers of El Tri will be out in full force and passionate as always. Or if you prefer watching from a distance, the first match will be on Fox Sports 2 and the second on Fox Sports 1.

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music

Party animals

Psych-rockers Fly Golden Eagle embrace collaboration and valuing fun over finances

By Andy Downing | FOR REDEYE

Ben Trimble, frontman for rising Nashville, Tenn., psych-rock crew Fly Golden Eagle, has long embraced collaboration, appearing on recordings by Alabama Shakes, Hurray for the Riff Raff and Benjamin Booker. With his own group, however, he's only recently adopted this all-in mindset, opening up the process to his Eagle mates rather than holing up alone for solitary months of writing and recording.

"Playing [the music] all by myself ... it's limiting in the emotional spectrum because you're getting only one guy's emotions," said Trimble, 29, who described the band's latest, the shaggy, retro-rock leaning "Quartz," as its first truly collaborative effort. "When you have four people, even though it might not be exactly what I think every part should be, I think it makes up for itself on the other end of it ... when the four people come together in solidarity."

How was the experience playing Lollapalooza last year?

It was great! We played Wicker Park Fest the year before, and the [Lolla] crowd was bigger than that. We went to Three Dots and a Dash early in the day and got good and sauced, and then after we opened for Fitz and the Tantrums at that really iconic venue, the Metro. It was cool to go to a festival that was actually in the city.

You've mentioned Bob Dylan's "John Wesley Harding" as a favorite. It's an album that features The Band backing him, so it's interesting you've adopted that Band-like approach, playing on records by Ben Booker and Alabama Shakes. Do you enjoy that col-



Ben Trimble (front right) and Fly Golden Eagle



laborative process?

Yeah, I love it, and I've been more into it lately. When we were working on "Quartz," I had to purge myself of collaborating with other people because [the album] was such a big thing and it took a lot of energy. But I'm getting back into it now. I'm scoring this movie for a friend, and I'm going to help produce a couple things. Nashville is a fun place right now because there are a lot of creative people, and once you find your niche there's a lot you can do.

Your song "Stepping Stone" opens with a mention of original sin. Did you receive your first exposure to music via the church?

Fly Golden Eagle

8 p.m. Tuesday, July 14 at Schubas. \$12.

Yeah. My dad's a preacher, so it was around a lot ... and those concepts and ideas show up in a lot of other things, too. They've taken on a new curiosity for me.

You mention finances a handful of times through the album. Is that a matter of being in a band where finances are a constant source of concern?

Yeah. And really anyone who's creative feels that struggle at some point. For a long time, you're torn between what you need to do to make money and what you do creatively. There's always that tension.

Have you developed any money-saving techniques for when you're out on the road?

I haven't developed any. I'm actually very bad with money. I'm trying to figure out how to be smarter with it, but it's not easy. On the road it's like, have a good time and enjoy yourself, or come back with a little money? In general I always opt for having a good time.

That explains why you were on Twitter talking about making more trips to Party City than the grocery store.

[Laughs.] I like to throw parties and have fun

with people. It's fun to unleash your inner [Peter] Pan. This month I've been to the grocery store more, but last month was Party City. I always like to get different costumes for different things. [We] did a Segway tour of Nashville, and I had this image in my head of god riding around on a Segway, so I went to Party City and got a god outfit to cruise around town.

You retweeted a Vice article headlined "College Is Not the Best Four Years of Your Life." How much of a mental hurdle was it for you to record at Trinity College, even though it's long been defunct?

That's kind of what was awesome about it: It was abandoned ... so it was like a beautiful shrine to the failed education system. There was an abandoned library and vultures inside. There was a room where a local band had been practicing, so they had taken all these mattresses and nailed them to the wall. It was kind of creepy.

Do you have any advice for your friends in Alabama Shakes as they get ready to play Lolla this year?

[Laughs.] Any advice for 'em? Bring down the sun, let it pour. Bring on the rain, let it shine.

**ANDY DOWNING IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
@ANDYDOWNING33**

REDEYE'S 10 FAVORITE CHICAGO ALBUMS OF 2015 (SO FAR)

By Josh Terry | REDEYE

There isn't a local music scene I'd want to cover more than Chicago's. Over the past few years the city has experienced a total renaissance—not that its community wasn't strong already, but the sheer amount of supremely talented rising stars and still-vibrant, seasoned veterans has been just astounding. With the rise of Chance the Rapper and the rest of the Savemoney crew pushing the limits of hip-hop; Ne-Hi, Twin Peaks and many more making incredibly exciting and varied rock music; and the continued success of mainstays Wilco and Kanye West (not to mention countless others), there's so much happening that it's both exhausting and invigorating to keep track of it all.

This year especially, with excellent efforts spanning artists across genres including rap, experimental pop, jazz-folk, pop punk and outsider indie, Chicago's talent pool arguably never has been deeper. While all of these acts carve out their own niches in their respective fields, they're tied together by pushing the limits of genre, convention and expectations to make this city proud. Below are the 10 most notable local releases through half of 2015, both traditional albums and mixtapes.

Donnie Trumpet & the Social Experiment—“Surf”

No album this year captures Chicago's musical resurgence better than Donnie Trumpet & the Social Experiment's “Surf.” Featuring prominent vocal contributions from Chance the Rapper, the album, which was released for free on iTunes, breezes by with the true spirit of collabora-



Donnie Trumpet (from right) and Social Experiment members Chance the Rapper, Greg Landfair Jr., Nate Fox, Peter Cottontale

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

tion. It's a jazz, funk, pop and hip-hop hybrid that is one of the most perfect summer albums I've ever heard, with guests as popular as Erykah Badu, Big Sean and J. Cole, plus promising local young guns such as Noname Gypsy, Saba and Joey Purp. At the very least, “Surf” and its endless good vibes will make you feel happy.



Pet Symmetry—“Pets Hounds”

Evan Weiss is so prolific that it's not a leap to think he'll continue to be on

lists like these for the next few years (next up, that Into It. Over It. record!). But with Pet Symmetry, the busy frontman outdid himself. Enlisting Kittyhawk and Dowsing's Erik Czaja and Mountains for Clouds' Marcus Nuccio, Weiss commands one of the best power pop albums of the year. Filled with pun- and hook-laden tracks, the Beach

Boys-referencing “Pets Hounds” is an album you'll get lost in.



Circuit Des Yeux—“In Plain Speech”

Haley Fohr's new album as Circuit Des Yeux is a triumph. Her rich, deep voice envelops the effort's

immensely textured arrangements, which boast swirling loops, velvety synths and pulsating bass. Hearing these layered songs for the first time will be one of your most captivating musical moments of the year.



Ryley Walker—“Primrose Green”

If there's any songwriter who is going to write an album on par both thematically

and in quality as Van Morrison's masterpiece “Astral Weeks,” it's Ryley Walker. The Rockford-born, Chicago-based singer-songwriter shattered all expectations by following his pleasant 2014 album “All Kinds of You” with this year's sprawling and gorgeous “Primrose Green.” Taking equal cues from jazz and British folk, Walker makes delicate, guitar-driven and jaw-dropping songs that are as vivid as they are masterfully played.



Towkio—“.Wav Theory”

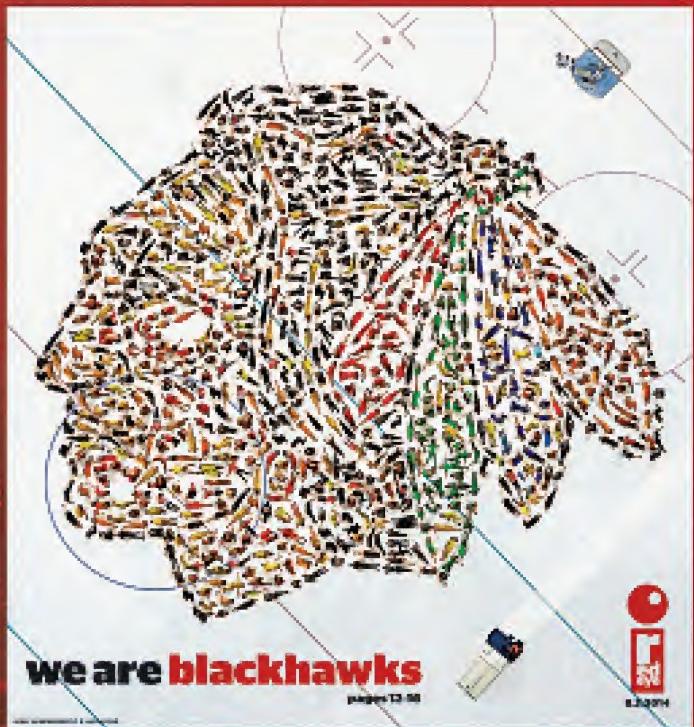
Out of all the members of Savemoney, Towkio is the most concerned about finesse. He's especially party-minded, liking

to blur the lines between dance music and hip-hop, with an undeniable charm that carries his full length mixtape “.Wav Theory.” Combining heady philosophical statements with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19 »

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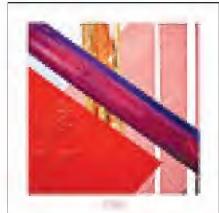
« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

lighthearted come-ons and fun choruses, the rapper (whose real name is Preston Oshita) is one of Chicago's most colorful personalities.



J Fernandez— “Many Levels of Laughter”

J Fernandez is what would happen if Death Cab For Cutie's Ben Gibbard dropped the twee affectation for a compelling krautrock and psych-folk infatuation. While that comparison is a little reductive, Fernandez's wistful tenor echoes Gibbard's but with more character and depth. His new album "Many Levels of Laughter" exudes fascinating rhythms, well-executed bedroom pop and soaring melodies. With such raw curiosity and jangly exuberance found within these tracks, it's no surprise other publications have been so hyped to proclaim that he's "America's next great singer-songwriter."



Lupe Fiasco— “Tetsuo and Youth”

Lupe Fiasco hasn't really had the best of luck since his excellent 2006 album "Food & Liquor" and his decent-to-good follow-up "The Cool." He's managed to release some promising singles, but, partly because of some fairly public incidents where Fiasco made headlines not for his music but for putting his foot in his mouth (and sometimes both), he hasn't been able to recapture the early magic—until now. "Tetsuo and Youth" is arguably the best album Fiasco has ever released. It showcases the MC's fiery delivery, like on "Mural," which is eight minutes of hookless, straight rapping. It's an incredible song, and, like the majority of the effort's 16 tracks, it's long and finds Fiasco expanding his horizons and reinvigorating his signature creativity.



Ty Money— “Cinco De Money”

Ignore the on-the-nose title of this project and the fact that it was released May 5. Instead, focus on Ty Money's gritty, assured raps. The fact that he's not flashy works for him. On the tape, he freestyles over Lil Herb's "Just Bars,"

music



Lupe Fiasco
MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE FILE

dazzling with his unwavering and impressive flow. He won't have a pop crossover hit, and that's a good thing. For Money, who specializes in just spitting out quality bar after bar, he's perfectly fine to stay and perfect his own lane. This tape proves how diverse this city's rap landscape truly is.



Leather Corduroys— “Season”

The debut full-length mixtape from Leather Corduroys (Savemoney's Joey Purp and Kami) is a glorious mess. Both rappers have bravado and talent in equal measure, especially on the Knox Fortune-produced "Mexican Coke," a raucous song that's best to pregame a night out with the squad. Because most of the tape's songs jump in and out of genres and song structure, it's tough to classify and pin down this dynamic duo's direction. But where that scatterbrained approach could hurt a project like this, Purp and Kami deftly bring it all together to show why they can't be Chicago's best-kept secret anymore.



Jimmy Whispers— “Summer In Pain”

Jimmy Whispers isn't for everyone. His unique, outsider persona and larger-than-life stage presence is something to behold. But his music, an idiosyncratic blend of lo-fi indie pop gems backed by organ, and his quivering, personality-filled voice is stunning and weird. His new album "Summer In Pain" actually has been gestating for years, as the songs were fleshed out in 2011 before being released this spring. The songs were recorded via the iPhone's voice memo app, and the amateurish technique allows them to stand on their own, proving that any professional-grade studio sheen would only neuter these tracks' ramshackle charm.

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San Francisco's Almanac Beer Co. coming to Chicago

By Josh Noel | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Almanac Beer Co., a San Francisco brewery that boasts one of the nation's renowned sour beer programs, will begin distributing in the Chicago area in July via Wirtz Beverage.

Launched in 2010 and known principally for its Farm to Barrel series of oak-aged sour beers, Almanac is rated as one of the nation's Top 100 breweries by the users of the RateBeer website.

A rotation of Farm to Barrel beers will be available in Chicago, leading off with the well-regarded Dogpatch Sour wild ale, said Amy Abraham, Wirtz's director of craft beer sales. Others will arrive, usually one at a time and in limited quantities.

Almanac's three year-round beers—Golden Gate gose, India pale ale and Saison Dolores—also will be available, as well as its two rotating seasonals: Emperor Norton, a dry-hopped Belgian-style ale brewed with apricots, available starting in July; and Valencia Gold, a golden ale brewed with Valencia oranges and honey, available in late winter. All Almanac beer is distributed in individual 22-ounce and 375-milliliter bottles and on draft.



Abraham said one condition of Almanac's agreeing to distribution in Chicago was that the beer remain fresh until reaching the consumer.

"They insisted on not warehousing the beer, and that it's stored at 38 degrees the whole way," she said. "The beer will come into our warehouse and then immediately go out [to stores and bars]."

Illinois is the eighth state with Almanac distribution, along with California, Washington, New York, Colorado, Oregon, Nevada and Idaho.

Almanac's founders will visit Chicago in August for a series of launch events, Abraham said.

Almanac is the second small, renowned Western brewery to begin distribution in Chicago this year. Logsdon Farmhouse Ales, of Hood River, Ore.—also a Top-100 RateBeer brewery that specializes in sour and traditional Belgian styles—began distributing in Chicago via wine importer Abbruzzi Distributing in June.

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Choreographer has the 'Magic Mike' touch

By Jordan Levin | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Alison Faulk is the lucky woman who made the moves for the hunks of "Magic Mike XXL," the second Channing Tatum film about the trials and triumphs of male strippers, inspired by Tatum's own bump and grind time in Tampa, Fla. The film, now in theaters, also stars Joe Manganiello, Matt Bomer and Jada Pinkett-Smith. Faulk, who choreographed the first "Magic Mike," as well as moves for J-Lo, Madonna and Pink, says it took a combination of trust, humor and female instinct.

The following is an edited transcript.

So what is it like coming up with all these sexy moves for guys?

One of my jobs besides choreographing is to stand in for the girls [in the club] in rehearsal. So I'm constantly getting danced on by these amazing guys. All you can do is giggle—omigod, there's someone's crotch in your face. Luckily we have such a good foundation from the first film. It is awkward. But you can't take that too seriously.

What did you do differently from the first "Magic Mike?"

In the first film we gave you the typical stuff—the fireman, the cowboy, the military number, "It's Raining Men." For the second one, I wanted to utilize the guys' individual talents and personalities and to focus on what women really want. They don't want to just watch, they want to interact with the guy. Joe Manganiello does a scene where he proposes to a girl and walks through a wedding ceremony. Of course I'd want him to carry me away and consummate our marriage.



Channing Tatum in 'Magic Mike XXL'

How did you come to choreograph these movies?

Channing's wife [Jenna Dewan-Tatum] and I toured with Janet Jackson, and she and I were roommates for five years. So when I started getting into choreography, she said [to Channing], "You should call Alison." I was so honored. We had that friendship to start with, so there was already a trust there, and it was awesome to go into the project that way. Channing has really great instincts and taste. I've learned through the years that he's always right.

Did you use any of his experience as a dancer in this movie?

The finale at the male stripper convention is based on a real thing. They used to go to this actual stripper convention. He's a gentleman, so he did not give any specifics. He just said it was so crazy. And that all these things you could imagine going on are probably going on.

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THE FILM SIGNALS ITS DIRECTOR AS A TALENT TO WATCH." —FRANK SHECK, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

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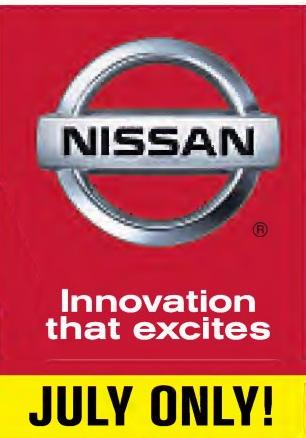
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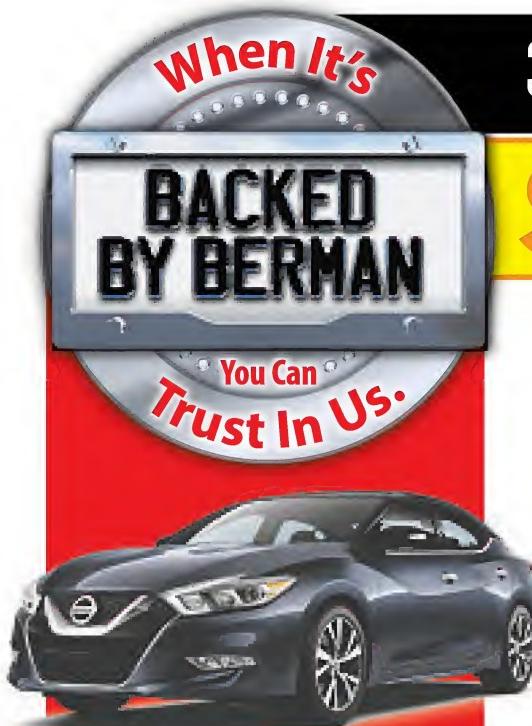
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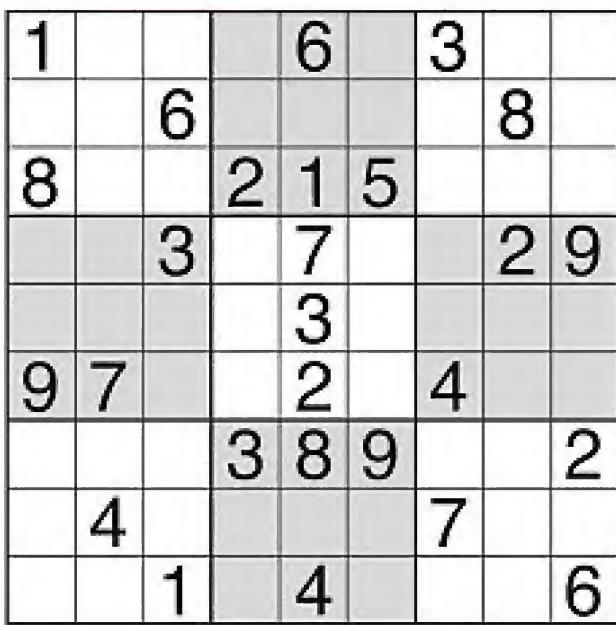
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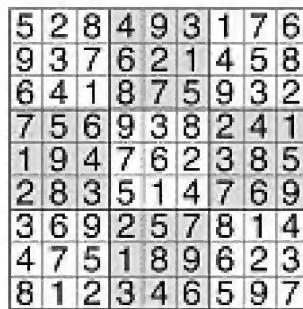
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A	R	O	M	A	S	O	D	A	G	E	D
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TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

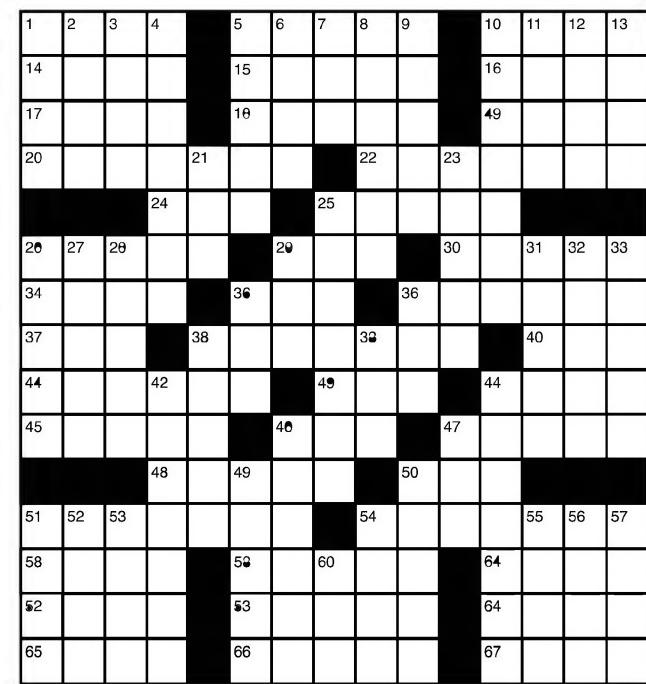
- 1776:** The Declaration of Independence was read to Gen. George Washington's troops in New York.
- 1974:** Former U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren died in Washington; he was 83.
- 1986:** The attorney general's Commission on Pornography released a 2,000-page report linking hard-core porn to sex crimes.
- 1997:** Boxer Mike Tyson was banned from the ring and fined \$3 million for biting the ears of opponent Evander Holyfield during a match.

ACROSS

- 1 Piece of living room furniture
5 Take _ undo
10 Close angrily
14 Chopping tools
15 Large parrot
16 Fit _ tied; irate
17 Charges
18 Kolkata, _
19 Know-it-_ smart alecks
20 Blow up, as a photo
22 Takes tiny bites
24 Eerie sighting, for short
25 Of the kidneys
26 Piece of celery
29 Nourished
30 Actor Stacy
34 Church season
35 Mauna _
36 Settle snugly & comfortably
37 Holiday or Hampton
38 Punctured
40 Battery size
41 Sounds
43 Encountered
44 Undergarment
45 "It's all _ to me!"
46 Buzzing insect
47 Coconut trees
48 Carried
50 Chitchat
51 _ Rockefeller; shellfish dish
54 Cool desserts
58 Autumn
59 Felt sick
61 Muscle pain
62 Set _ release
63 Perfect
64 "My Country, 'Tis of _"
65 Finds a sum
66 Suspicious
67 Goose's sound

DOWN

- 1 Not in danger
2 Work animals
3 _ for; have pity on
4 Attack
5 Tijuana friend
6 Window glass
7 Monogram for writer Doyle
8 _ cats and dogs; poured



- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9 Writer Mark _ | 29 Enemy | 47 Golf term |
| 10 Horses' homes | 31 _ costs; no matter what | 49 Mountain path |
| 11 Lounge around | 32 Have dibs on | 50 Holy |
| 12 Qualified | 33 Piles | 51 As easy as falling _ log |
| 13 Disarray | 35 Fleur-de_- | 52 Three feet |
| 21 U.S. senator slain in 1968 | 36 Tennis court divider | 53 Snow toy |
| 23 Boston _ beans | 38 Tea variety | 54 Burn |
| 25 Provided with | 39 Average grade | 55 Resound |
| 26 Fresh weapons | 42 _ down; stops moving around | 56 At that time |
| 27 Injured arm support | 44 Day of rest | 57 Look for |
| 28 Singing voice | 46 Next to | 60 Actress Remick |
| 29 Oakley or Potts | | |



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THE DIGIT

3

That's how many seasons "South Park" has been renewed for by Comedy Central. The show, which will begin its 19th season in September, will run through 2019, according to [variety.com](#). Each season will be 10 episodes.

The renewal will make the show Comedy Central's longest-running scripted prime-time series. We wonder if they'll come up with new and exciting ways to kill Kenny. We hope.



A Grande change to the All-Star Game

Ha, get it? But really, Ariana Grande is out for the All-Star Game concert in Cincinnati this year, according to [eonline.com](#). Demi Lovato officially will replace Grande, who pulled out because she had her wisdom teeth taken out on Monday. Lovato said in a statement, "I'm so excited to be headlining the MLB All-Star Concert." We're excited, too, girl. We just hope you stay on your feet.

THE QUOTE

"I THINK THERE'S A MISCONCEPTION THAT I SPEND 365 DAYS A YEAR IN A GYM."

— **Ryan Reynolds**, to [eonline.com](#). Reynolds also said that he's just a "tall and skinny guy naturally." Seriously, dude?! SERIOUSLY??? Damn. Just damn.



Matt Bomer as Clark Kent? Oh, yeah

About a decade ago **Matt Bomer**, one of the most beautiful men ever, was tapped to play Superman in a project that ended up going nowhere, according to [vulture.com](#). The "Magic Mike" star was 23 at the time. The script was written by J.J. Abrams and was supposed to be a lighthearted look at Superman while he was in college. Bomer said he screen tested with Amy Adams in the tights. Look, we're sad this didn't happen. But can you imagine what he looks like in the Superman costume? Yeah, we can. And we're sure it's way better than Nic Cage.



GETTY IMAGES

Independent woman heads to 'Empire'

You guys, you guys: Former *Destiny's Child* singer Kelly Rowland is set to appear in the second season of Fox's "Empire," according to [ew.com](#). Rowland will appear in flashbacks as Lucious Lyon's mother. The season starts Sept. 23.

We're sorry for all the Taylor Swift love

But not really because she's doing really awesome things. Swift recently donated \$50,000 to a young fan in Arizona battling leukemia, according to [ew.com](#). The young fan posted a YouTube video of herself hoping to connect with Swift after she learned she wouldn't make it to the Phoenix stop of Swift's "1989" tour. Swift posted a note on the fan's GoFundMe page saying, "To the beautiful and brave Naomi, I'm sorry you have to miss it, but there will always be more concerts," Swift wrote. "Let's focus on getting you feeling better. I'm sending the biggest hugs to you and your family." Awww. Swift for president 2016.

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